

DR. F. WILSON RAISES "ERMINIE"

Comic Opera "Classic" Comes to Life Again.

MUCH THE SAME AS OF OLD

All-Star Cast Gives Pleasure—Wilson Makes Characteristic Speech—Will Soon Enter Comedy.

The comic opera "Erminie," which some one once called "a piece of cake," was resuscitated last night at the Columbia Theater. A corps of operatic surgeons consulted over the case and toward the end of the evening the patient was able to smile and warble "quite natural," so that the old friends and young students who braved the snow storm were able to recognize the sufferer if only as a shadow of his former self. The credit rests with Dr. Francis Wilson and his aids, however; there is precious little life left in the patient.

All the medico-dramatic journals—of which number The Times is glad to count itself one—have announced that this case of "Erminie" is to be the last Dr. Wilson will treat before he enters on an entirely different practice. That is now easy to believe. No surgeon but a past master of his profession would have undertaken so desperate a case and no case could be a more fitting valedictory to the surgeon's profession. In other words—Dr. Wilson can save "Erminie" he ought to retire or none of our graveyards will be safe.

The Same Old Treatment.

Elaborate preparations had been made for the clinic. The Columbia, transformed for the occasion into a theatrical hospital, put on its most hospitable air as though to defy the whirling snow and clinging sleet. The operating platform was brightly lit and gayly decorated, albeit the decorations seemed strangely familiar. Messrs. Nixon and Zimmerman, distinguished patrons of the profession, were represented by suitable deputies. And the lecture hall was well filled.

Dr. Wilson worked like a Trojan. He first hypnotized the patient with a series of the gyrations and contortions which have served him well as a hypnotist these many years. Then he sang to the creature and danced before it. All this was very much as it used to be. The genuflections and grimaces of comic opera, like the songs and dances, do not change with years. On the contrary they ripen with age until, being given the patient's symptoms, the average theatergoer can forecast the treatment to a nicety. It was a visit from our old friend, the family doctor, and it ought to be said to his credit he cured all those in the lecture hall who showed congenital symptoms of the disease. One will hope he carries this same skill with him when he enters the homeopathy of pure comedy.

A Longing, Lingering Look Behind.

The assistants included William Broderick, William C. Wood, Jessie Bartlett Davis, Marguerite Sylvia, and Madge Leasing. All these did the best they could; but they were not needed, in the first place; and they got in the way, in the second, this in evidence being particularly manifest when the inclosure was crowded with medical students and trained nurses in appropriate costumes.

There were three stages of treatment. At the close of the second stage, when the play was manifestly over, Dr. Wilson was rewarded with plaudits loud and long. In response he permitted the subject of his skill to pass a little while he made a speech, a speech worth the price of admission alone. It began with what theatrical attaches term a "local gag."

"Ladies and Gentlemen, and People of Georgetown," said Dr. Wilson. Then he went on to explain that before leaving New York he and his associates had done everything in their power to make "Erminie" entirely moral. He hoped they had reduced it to the harmlesslest of patent infant food. He had two more words to say—the most important words of his speech—"Good night." Thereupon his trusty legs carried him speedily off the stage.

"Good night to 'Erminie,' dear old 'Erminie,' the comic opera classic, with the old threadbare lullaby! Ten years ago we said good-by. But that was only October, the time of that good-by, and not the dead of the year. Could it be that we have foreseen this experience when we wrote:

On Autumn's gray and mournful brow the snow hung its white wreaths; with stifled voice and low
The river crept, by one vast bridge over crossed,
Built by the hoar-frosted artisan of Frost.

If so, whom did he mean by "the hoar-frosted artisan of Frost?" Surely not Dr. Francis Wilson, whose specialty seems to be shoveling out under a social trust.

KELLAR AS MYSTIFYING AND SLICK AS EVER

Audience Filled With Wonder as Magician Performs Tricks.

"The closer you watch the less you see" is an adage the truth of which is completely demonstrated this week at the Lafayette by Kellar, the magician, hypnotist, conjurer, and master of the art of mystifying. Kellar is the only living man who day after day and year after year proves the fallacy of President Abe Lincoln's theory, "You can fool all of the people some of the time and some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time."

The auditors watched with open-mouthed wonder, saw everything from hobnails to human beings evaporate into the air, then rubbed their eyes, and half ashamed, asked each other "How did he do it?" And the echoes answered how.

Some of the tricks are old, but nevertheless inexplicable. Some of the audience believed themselves good judges of cognate, Rhine wine, and seizer, but when they saw all three of these beverages come in abundance from the same bottle, topped off with sparkling champagne, they decided they had something left to learn. When the bottom of it and extracted a healthy guinea pig, to the great discomfort of those who had joined him in a social drink.

Other tricks equally as mystifying were the crystal ladder, the demon globe, Old Glory, the dying enigma, the Yogi's lamp, Psychograph, or mind power, and the Simla scene. His two best efforts are, however, the levitation of Princess Karnak and Fly To, in both of which acts Mrs. Kellar appears to assist her husband.

TWO FAVORITES AT THE NATIONAL

Annie Russell and Mrs. Gilbert Please.

LATTER GETS AN OVATION

Madeleine Lucette Ryley's Play, "Mice and Men," Makes Its Second Appearance Here.

In the long list of American stars there is none more welcome at the Capital than Annie Russell, who last night began her second local engagement at the National Theater in Madeleine Lucette Ryley's play, "Mice and Men."

Miss Russell's delineation of Peggy, the founding, was a sweet, breezy and girlish bit of work—the kind of work one always expects from Miss Russell and the sort of portrayal that makes one take a deep breath and feel glad that such sweet characters may ever prove a genuine delight. Mrs. G. H. Gilbert, that veteran player for whom the American theater public has such profound respect that it borders on veneration, was given a monster ovation upon her appearance last night in the role of the old housekeeper.

John Mason has been known to offer several excellent characterizations in the past, but his ministerial and most monotonous reading of the lines allotted to the old bachelor gave one a persistent feeling that he would reverently fold his hands and say "let the nephew do it." He would play the role of the nephew indifferently. However, when one may have Annie Russell and dear old Mrs. Gilbert together, one is inclined to forgive even a bad play and the poor support given by some of the assisting players.

PROGRAM AT CHASE'S SATISFIES THE CRITICAL

Clever Sketches Interspersed With Songs, Dancing, Lions, and Minstrelsy.

The bill at Chase's this week is made up of acts that have won more or less success in former occasions, and which form an entertainment capable of pleasing the most critical audience.

Dan Sherman and Mabel DeForest present an amusing sketch, the battle of "Sandago." In less capable hands it might prove a failure. Ford and Wilson are good blackface comedians. Their work is clean, and as grotesque dangers they are clever. Charles Dickson and Miss Billings make a success of their sketch, "A Pressing Matter." It is cleverly constructed, and has some amusing lines.

La Belle Selica and her lions are always a source of entertainment. As much may be said for Prell's Talking Dogs, really one of the features of the bill.

Ada Arnoldson has an excellent voice, and her songs are well chosen.

"ACROSS THE PACIFIC" ATTRACTS BIG AUDIENCE

Play Is Full of Action, Comedy, Pathos, and Thrilling Escapes.

The military drama, "Across the Pacific," with Harry Clay Blaney, the playwright, in the leading role attracted a large audience to the Academy of Music last night. There is no lack of action in the play, which is full of comedy and pathos.

The opening scene is laid at the home of Joe Lanier, a Montana miner, who afterward became a captain of volunteers in the United States army and goes to the Philippines. Bud Stanton, the villain, tries to entrap Elsie Scott, Lanier's ward, into a mock marriage, and failing in this tries to rid himself of her guardian by having him convicted of robbing Sam Drysdale, paymaster in the United States army, both of which fail.

"WEALTH AND POVERTY" PLEASES AT EMPIRE

Homer Mullaney, as Constable, Makes Hit With Audiences.

"Wealth and Poverty" is the attraction at the Empire Theater this week. The play was viewed by large houses yesterday afternoon and evening.

Homer Mullaney, as Precious Plunkett, a constable, has the leading role and plays it well. He is capable of much better work than that afforded him in "Wealth and Poverty."

On the first day of his election as constable he creates a sensation by arresting his sweetheart's father, Jonathan Newcomb, through a bogus telegram, and brings the displeasure of his own and the Newcomb family.

Newcomb ultimately offers Plunkett the hand of his daughter Kate, in which role Minnie Stanley plays well the few lines given her.

YAMAMOTO BROTHERS EXCEL AT THE LYCEUM

Only one first-class turn was offered by the Rentz-Santony company at the Lyceum last night. The girls are pretty and sing well, but the burlesques contain little wit and were not well carried out.

The star feature of the show, and what was well worth the price of admission, was the wonderful balancing work of the Yamamoto brothers, Japanese equilibrist. Climbing a pole balanced on his brother's shoulder, the younger brother went to the top, stood up, and calmly did some juggling. After that nifty proceeding the daring Jap stood on his head on the end of the pole, straightened his legs in the air, placed his hands against his sides and fired two tiny pistols.

Many aerial balancing acts have been seen in this city, but none of them have excelled that of the Yamamotos.

The others in the olio are the "three Connolly stars, Grunt and Grunt, McCabe, Rabine and Vera, and Charles W. Douglas.

ALL HORSEMEN WIN IN UNIQUE DICKER

Animal Bought for \$4, Ruffled for \$8.20, Won for 4 Cents, Sold for \$2.50.

PATCHOGUE, L. I., Jan. 12.—This town, noted for its horse pickers, has just come out with a unique dicker. A time threatened its reputation for shrewdness in such matters. Fred F. Knapf, of Southampton, arrived on Saturday with a steed, which he sold to a syndicate, comprising John Beck, Albert Helmer, Henry Mabs, and Carl Schorner, for \$4 and the syndicate promptly organized a raffle, for which there were forty chances, the investors paying from 1 to 40 cents, according to the number found by them on the tickets in the sealed envelopes.

Samuel Hines drew No. 4, and paid 4 cents, and proved to be the winner. Today he sold the animal on the hoof to a fertilizer and bone-bolling establishment for \$2.50. Everyone connected with the transaction seems to have profited. The syndicate invested \$4 and received \$8.20. Hines expended 4 cents and cleared \$2.46. The original owner, of course, pocketed \$4, and the fertilizer company has yet to be heard from.

NEWS OF RAILROADS AND OF RAILROAD MEN

Seaboard Extensions.

It is said that under the new management the Seaboard Air Line is to make an exception to the plan adopted by the majority of railroads in the country and is to go ahead with many improvements and extensions in the coming year. Five million dollars' worth of bonds provided for by the directors at their meeting held in New York recently are soon to be issued and it is said no difficulty will be experienced in disposing of them in the New York market. This money is to go into the extension which is being constructed in the Manatee country. When these lines are completed it is announced that the line is to be extended farther south to Florida, reaching the cape, and a new line is to be constructed in the neighborhood of Norfolk. It is announced that the branches being constructed near Birmingham are about complete, and that coal is being shipped over some of them.

End of Long Suit.

The trouble between the Southern and Seaboard Air Line over the possession of the right of way in Peabody Street, Durham, has come to an end. The railroads have been fighting the matter in court for several years, and it is said that a small fortune has been spent by them. Two weeks ago the Seaboard entered a non-suit, and today at court the case was allowed action, thus ending the proceedings.

Philippine Railroads.

The Philippine government is endeavoring to arrange with several prominent contractors for the construction of a line in the Philippines from Manila through the length of the largest islands and with branches to nearly all points. It is recognized that railroads will do more to upbuild the country than any other means of transportation. It is said the matter of construction is now in the hands of Colonel Edwards, but nothing definite is likely to be done until after the arrival and inauguration of Governor Taft as Secretary of War. The railroads will be one of the first matters he takes up for consideration.

Loree's Salary.

So much has been said recently concerning the high salary paid President Loree of the Rock Island, to get him away from Baltimore and toward the matter has been taken up authoritatively. It was reported that Mr. Loree was receiving at least \$100,000 a year. It was said today on good authority that the new president is being paid \$50,000 a year, and that he received a good stock bonus when he was elected. When F. D. Underwood left the Baltimore and Ohio to take the presidency of the Erie he received \$100,000 a year, and he is also getting \$50,000 a year. President Cassatt, of the Pennsylvania, is paid \$125,000 a year.

Broke Hauling Records.

The New York division of the Reading Railway made a great record in December in matter of train handling, showing what can be done in that direction under competent and intelligent management. According to the train sheets of the division there were handled during the month, in round numbers, 21,600 trains of all kinds. The loss in time in the handling of these trains approximated three and a fraction days, and the time gained one and a fraction. In-

ALEXANDRIA NEWS NOTES

ALEXANDRIA, Va., Jan. 12.—Police-Allen and Smith, by diligent and effective work last night captured the man who, it is alleged, shot "Bun" Robinson at the corner of Wolfe and Columbus Streets, last Saturday night.

The man, who gives his name as Daniel G. Harris, was tracked from Alexandria to Clifton Station, where he was arrested. The police telegraphed all the village authorities as far as Manassas to watch out for the man, and the town constable of Clifton arrested him and held him until the two policemen arrived and brought him to Alexandria. He was brought before the mayor this morning and William Wade, proprietor of the saloon at the corner of Wolfe and Columbus Streets, was Robinson, a brother of the man who was shot, and "Cabbage" Drown was examined. All testified that Harris was the man who fired the shot that wounded Robinson, and he was sent on to the grand jury.

CLINTON LUCAS DEAD.

Clinton Lucas, well-known young bookkeeper at the wholesale agricultural store of W. H. May & Son, died here at the Alexandria Hospital this morning. He had been ill with typhoid fever for some time.

HOLY NAME OFFICERS.

The Holy Name Society met Sunday last and elected the following officers: Edmund Dwyer, president; Carl Rothmund, vice president; Martin Greene, secretary; Bernard O'Brien, treasurer; Joseph Monroe, Joseph Hogg, guards; Frank Westlake, reader; Thomas Downey, librarian.

STOCKHOLDERS MEET.

The stockholders of the Emerson Pump Company held their annual meeting at the office of the company in South Fairfax Street, yesterday, and elected the following directors: William

CASTORIA For Infants and Children, The Kind You Have Always Bought

PLUNGED EIGHTY FEET FROM STEEPLE INTO PIT

Every Bone in Body of Young Workman Broken.

POLICEMAN'S HEROIC FEAT

Had Himself Lowered by Rope, and After Hour's Work Brought Dying Man Up.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 12.—One of the most daring and heroic feats ever accomplished by a Philadelphia policeman was executed by Patrol Sergeant James Treston, when he rescued Samuel Levy from the bottom of an eighty-foot pit at the German Lutheran Church on Franklin Street, below Pine. For nearly an hour the brave policeman was suspended in mid-air over the pit, holding himself to the rope with one hand, while with the other he held fast to the unconscious lad. Strong-armed workmen from a scaffold at the top pulled the two up inch by inch until they were safely landed.

Life Almost Fled.

Young Levy was scarcely breathing when the top was reached, but his life was saved for a while at least. He had plunged headlong from the steeple of the church into the pit, which is formed by a wall built close up to the pit wall and was originally constructed to prevent sound in the church. Every bone in his body was broken. Blood was gushing from scores of wounds and broken bones protruded through his clothes.

Sergeant Treston says that dozens of times the awful spectacle came near making him lose his grip on the rope. Several times he was blinded by dizziness, but he grimly held on, while policemen and workmen at the top tugged away coolly and kept yelling words of cheer to the brave Treston.

Pit Black as Night.

From the pit there was no way of exit except at the top. In the bottom the air was stifling and it was as black as night. Levy's fall had stirred up a great cloud of dust that had been gathering in the pit's depth for years and made it most impossible to breathe.

Levy, who is seventeen years old, has been employed as a helper to J. P. Keyser, a sheetiron worker. They were replacing a ventilator in the church steeple when the accident happened. Young Levy was stepping across a narrow plank when he made a misstep and plunged into the pit.

The lad's fellow-workers believed he must have been killed outright, but the work of getting him out was promptly begun. A block and tackle were arranged on the roof of the church, and Treston was lowered to the bottom of the shaft. One end of the rope was tied about the victim. Upon reaching the roof the boy had to be carried down four flights of stairs. He was hurried to the Hahnemann Hospital, but the physicians have no hope of saving him.

TEN THOUSAND RABBITS SLAUGHTERED IN DRIVE

Seven Hundred Persons Participated in Remarkable Killing in Oregon.

ECHO, Ore., Jan. 12.—The rabbit drive on Lower Butter Creek yesterday was the largest in the history of the Northwest. 700 men, women, and children participated. Ten thousand rabbits were killed.

Rabbits came in such droves and with such a wild rush that they could not get into the corral fast enough, and they piled up fully two feet deep, hundreds smothering. Two persons were seriously injured.

H. L. Cabell Williamson is named as executor and trustee, and is to receive 9.9 per cent of all the funds of the estate he handles.

On December 21 last, Ada Codrick, the beneficiary named, filed a petition asking that she be appointed executor and trustee of the estate of Lavinia A. Hall. This was asked on the ground that on account of her health and age Mrs. Hall was not able to take care of herself or property.

Charles A. Douglas and L. Cabell Williamson were appointed a committee for the purpose.

INSURANCE COMPANY MEETS.

The Independent Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of Fairfax county, held its annual meeting at its 1000 Royal Street yesterday and elected the following officers: President, James W. Roberts; secretary, C. Lukens; treasurer, Walter Roberts; executive committee, M. D. Hall, James W. Roberts, and J. N. Gibbs; directors, C. B. Marshall, J. W. Roberts, William H. May, M. D. Hall, Arthur J. Cross, J. N. Gibbs, George B. Ives, Oscar Baker, E. L. Garrett, Eli L. Nichols, J. M. Thorne, H. P. Dodge, and A. L. Lukens.

IN CORPORATION COURT.

In the corporation court, Judge Louis C. Barley presiding, the grand jury returned indictments against the following persons:

True bills against Howard L. Adams, for larceny; Howard L. Adams, for stealing a horse; George Boston, for robbery; Carl Maufer, for breaking and entering a railroad car; Frederick Stoeckel, Frank Jeffries, William Carter, Oliver Simpson, and William German, for entering a railroad car.

In the case of the Commonwealth vs. Howard L. Adams, for grand larceny, the prisoner pleaded guilty and was sentenced to serve five years in the State penitentiary at Richmond.

John L. Procter and James F. Wood were appointed deputy city sergeants. Dr. William R. Purvis qualified as the coroner for the city of Alexandria.

The wills of the late Mary V. Haskins and John A. Spencer were admitted to probate.

Leo F. Marlow was admitted to practice in this court. The Times yesterday, Harry B. Cato was appointed the justice for the city of Alexandria for the term of four years from February 1 next.

Bears the Signature of

Charles H. Fitch.

DOG WAS FLOATING ON A CAKE OF ICE

Handsomeness Russian Terrier Picked Up by Revenue Cutter in New York Bay Nearly Exhausted.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—Justice Harold Ichabod Smith, of Midvale, N. J., is going to dispense with his farmhand and jailer. The revenue cutter Mackinac picked up a handsome Russian terrier at sea, which has come into the possession of Mr. Smith. The dog is only about five months old and already stands about three feet high. By the time it is full grown, the justice says, it will be able to look after his two cows, and terrify the Midvale evildoers from making any attempt to escape.

On Monday morning the Mackinac left the Battery to take the boarding officers down the bay. The cutter stood well in by the Brooklyn shore, and when half way between Robbins Reef and Bay Ridge, "Jim" Bradley, the skipper, saw a dark mass on a small cake of ice drifting out to sea. He and Boarding Officer Little brought their glasses to bear, but could not discover just what was on the ice.

The cutter was then turned inshore. As they got nearer Captain Bradley thought it was a child, but on a nearer approach a handsome dog was seen to

be standing on a cake of ice less than half a dozen feet in diameter. The cake was slightly hollowed in the center and was riding the waves like a saucer-shaped boat.

At the cutter got near the El Rio, from Galveston, passed the cake. The dog, as soon as he saw the steamer, spread his legs apart and braced himself against the swell. After the steamer had passed he relaxed, only to brace himself again as the cutter got alongside. A ladder was dropped over and one of the crew picked up the dog.

The animal was weak and could scarcely stand. His long hair was covered with ice and his paws and muzzle were swollen. Lieut. Hemar, Kotzschmar, of the revenue cutter, took the dog into the engine room, where warm milk and whisky were given him until he had partially recovered. The dog was finally given to Justice Smith.

The dog was probably lost overboard from a Russian bark, which called early on Sunday morning, and drifted around on the ice along the Long Island coast until picked up.

At a euchre party given at "Elwood" Friday evening there were present Mr. Boykin, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Dobbs, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Rogers, Miss James C. Rogers, J. Harris Rogers, Miss Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. R. E. White. Mr. Pligott, Mrs. Smith, Harris Rogers, and R. E. White won the prizes.

Judge Arthur Carr has received news that his daughter, Mrs. Nellie Welch, who has been ill at her home in Anne Arundel county for about a month, is much worse.

LOCAL MENTION.

The Great Merit of "Muenchener" Beer is attested by its popularity in the homes. Absolutely pure. Phone 222. Nat. Cap. Brewing Co. 2 doz. \$1.25.

Ideas About Floral Decorations. At Shaffer's stores, 14th & L; 17th Pa. av.

Gas Radiators. Oil Heaters. 615 12th st. Luddiman & Co. 1204 G.

Schmidt's for pets. 712 12th st.

Genuine \$5, \$6, and \$7 Sample Shoes. Three hundred styles at \$2.50. Keene's Shoe Store, 908 G Street northwest.

Want advertisements and subscriptions for the Evening and Sunday Times will be received at any of the following branches at regular office rates: Library Pharmacy, 24 st. and Pa. av. se.; William H. Davis & Bro., 11th and U sts. nw.; William G. Gentner, cor. 14th and U sts. nw.; L. French Simpson, cor. 7th st. and Rhode Island av. and R sts. nw.; Theodore A. T. Judd, cor. 7th and F sts. sw.; Armstrong, cor. 7th and H sts. ne.; Astoria Pharmacy, W. A. Evans, mgr., cor. 3rd and G sts. nw.; Charles H. Blumer, North Capital and 14th sts. ne.; R. A. Veitch, 3rd and M sts. nw.; H. A. Yates, ne. cor. 7th and M sts. nw.; Quigley's Pharmacy, 21st and G sts. nw.; O'Donnell & Rogers, cor. 8th and G sts. se. Anacostia—Bury's Pharmacy, corner Monroe and Jefferson sts.



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